



Faith and knowledge together.

Holy Rosary School
St. James Catholic School
St. John's School
St. Michael's Lakeside School
St. Rose School

Progress Report: February 2011

Our Duluth Area Catholic Schools have just completed another very successful National Catholic Schools Week. During the annual observance, we celebrated the value of Catholic education with activities that showcased our schools' unique qualities, unified spirit, and cooperative relationship. A Diocesan spelling bee, community service projects, volunteer recognition events, reading and writing activities, fitness challenges, art displays, liturgical celebrations, family dances, skating and sledding parties, and a host of other events took place. This year's theme, "*Catholic Schools: A+ For America*," celebrated the value Catholic schools add to the nation. With high academic standards grounded in strong moral values and high graduation rates, Catholic schools and the success of their graduates make a significant contribution to American society.

We are busy preparing for Kindergarten Round-Ups to be held the last week of February and the first week of March. Principals are organizing recruitment efforts, including school open houses, information packets, television ads, newspaper ads, and other print ads. Watch for heightened visibility throughout the month of March.

Crystal Kilichowski, our marketing coordinator, is working to develop an improved Duluth Area Catholic School System website, which will link to individual school sites. One goal is to provide better communication with current and prospective families. We look forward to utilizing Facebook, Twitter, and You-Tube, as well.

Satisfied families strengthen recruitment efforts. Please spread the good word about our Catholic schools. You have a very powerful voice in helping others make a choice that has worked for you and your family. Speak from your heart. Our principals are happy to assist you in this effort. Perhaps you can provide your school with a name or two to contact.

Principals and several pastors from Duluth Area Catholic Schools recently attended a Minnesota Nonpublic Schools' Legislative Day. Private school educators met and heard from legislative leaders in Minnesota regarding current legislation affecting private education. A rally was held in the rotunda, and the afternoon was spent lobbying our lawmakers on educational issues such as tax credits, special education funding, textbook funding, busing, and counseling and nursing services. During these difficult economic times, it is critical that our children are not forgotten when funding decisions are made.

Bishop Sirba convened a meeting of the pastors of supporting parishes of the Duluth Area Catholic School System to discuss common ideas and hear a presentation by co-chairs of the Strategic Planning Committee, Jim Cherveney and Cynthia Zook. They presented an overview of the strategic planning process and reviewed a draft of the strategic plan. Pastors were asked to provide feedback. Principals and school leadership at each of our System schools have been given the same opportunity to reflect on the plan and offer input. This data will help the Strategic Planning Committee develop a timeline to implement strategic goals and objectives.

The next school board meeting is Thursday, April 7, 6:30 p.m. at the Pastoral Center. Visitors are welcome to attend.